

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: William McFarland, et al. :
Serial No. : Group Art Unit #
Filed : 30 June 2003 : Examiner:
Title : SCALABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM :
USING OVERLAIDED SIGNALS AND MULTI-
CARRIER FREQUENCY COMMUNICATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The above-referenced Patent Application is being concurrently filed herewith, as a Continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/474,602, filed 29 December 1999. Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced Continuation Patent Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-31 without prejudice.

Please insert the following Claims:

32. A communication system comprising:

a plurality of nodes, each for transmitting simultaneously with other nodes a signal unique to that signal's node and representative of at least one non-overlapping sub-channel conveying information derived from a data stream, at least a pair of the nodes having different communication data rate parameters corresponding thereto, each at least one information-